



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DON PRIDEMORE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ELECTIONS SB 269

October 31, 2011

Dear Chairwoman Lazich and Members of the Transportation and Elections Committee:

Thank you for hearing today's testimony on SB 269, which will allow poll workers to be selected from the county of residence rather than their municipality. This will greatly expand the pool of eligible people working on Election Day and will ensure one of our most important constitutional rights is protected, while providing for an efficient and well run process. One of the most difficult and time consuming jobs that some of our election clerks have to administer before each election is finding enough qualified people from both major political parties to run our elections. Some municipal wards have been historically difficult to fill with qualified citizens to work the polls and far too many hours are spent trying. Often times the same people must be called upon year after year. This will be especially important now that we have the requirement to show a photo ID.

This is a non-partisan issue as the problem of finding poll workers exists in districts that are dominated by either party. Having the opportunity to supply equal representation by both major parties at the polls ensures neither party will have a substantial numerical advantage. This will also lead to establishing more trust across party lines that is sorely lacking in today's political climate. In testimony taken from the Informational Hearing last week, Government Accountability Board Director Kevin Kennedy was quoted as saying "anything that promotes having access to more poll workers is good". Thank you again for considering SB 269 and I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

State Rep. Don Pridemore



**Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections
Testimony Senate Bill 269
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Senate Bill 269 is the Senate companion bill to Assembly Bill 169, legislation introduced earlier this year in the State Assembly. Assembly Bill 169, authored by Representative Pridemore, allows poll workers to function within their home county.

Municipal clerks experience difficulty filling poll worker positions. Poll workers must live in a ward or district to work at the polls Election Day. Some municipalities have an abundance of interested poll workers, while others struggle to find enough. Allowing mobility of election workers will ensure the human resources available are best used and that elections run with integrity.



